

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A method for dynamically configuring a server computer, comprising:
receiving a request for a resource located at said server computer;
in response to said request, identifying one or more configuration settings based upon said request;

evaluating a configuration rule using said configuration settings to determine whether said configuration rule is satisfied;

in response to determining that said configuration rule is satisfied, adding one or more configuration settings associated with said configuration rule to said configuration settings to create new configuration settings; and

configuring said server computer based upon said new configuration settings.

2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
determining whether an additional configuration rule remains to be tested; and
in response to determining that an additional configuration rule remains to be tested,

(i) evaluating said additional configuration rule with said configuration settings to determine if said additional configuration rule is satisfied,

(ii) in response to determining that said additional configuration rule is satisfied, adding one or more configuration settings associated with said additional configuration rule to said configuration settings to create new configuration settings, and

(iii) configuring said server computer based upon said new configuration settings.

3. The method of Claim 2, further comprising:
determining whether said new configuration settings include a required configuration setting; and

generating an error message at said server computer in response to determining that said required configuration setting is not included in said new configuration settings.

4. The method of Claim 3, wherein identifying one or more configuration settings based on said request comprises identifying one or more configuration settings based upon data contained in said request.

5. The method of Claim 4, wherein said request comprises a hyper-text transfer protocol request and wherein said data contained in said request comprises a hypertext transfer protocol host parameter.

6. The method of Claim 5, wherein identifying one or more configuration settings based on said request comprises identifying one or more configuration settings stored in a registry of said server computer.

7. The method of Claim 6, wherein said one or more configuration settings stored in a registry of said server computer comprise a host name for said server computer and a host internet protocol address for said server computer.

8. The method of Claim 7, wherein identifying one or more configuration settings based on said request comprises retrieving said one or more configuration settings from a client computer that originated said request.

9. The method of Claim 8, wherein said configuration rule and said configuration settings associated with said configuration rule are stored in a global configuration file accessible to said server computer.

10. A computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the method of Claim 1.

11. A computer-controlled apparatus, comprising:
a central processing unit;
a memory;
a network interface;
a storage device; and

a global configuration file stored on said storage device comprising one or more configuration rules and one or more configuration settings associated with each configuration rule; and wherein

said central processing unit is operative to execute instructions stored in said memory which cause said computer-controlled apparatus to:

- (i) receive a request for a resource accessible to said computer-controlled apparatus on said network interface;
- (ii) in response to said request, identify one or more configuration settings based upon said request;
- (iii) evaluating one of said configuration rules to determine whether said configuration rule is satisfied;
- (iv) in response to determining that said configuration rule is satisfied, adding said configuration settings associated with said configuration rule to a configuration settings file stored in said memory or on said storage device; and
- (v) responding to said request for a resource using said configuration settings.

12. The computer-controlled apparatus of Claim 11, wherein said central processing unit is further operative to execute instructions stored in said memory which cause said computer-controlled apparatus to:

determine whether one of said configuration rules is untriggered; and

in response to determining that one of said configuration rules has not been triggered,

- (i) evaluating said untriggered configuration rule to determine if said untriggered configuration rule is satisfied,
- (ii) in response to determining that said untriggered configuration rule is satisfied, adding said configuration settings associated with said untriggered configuration rule to said configuration settings file stored in said memory or on said storage device to create a new configuration settings file; and
- (iii) responding to said request for a resource using said new configuration settings.

13. The computer-controlled apparatus of Claim 12, wherein said request for a resource comprises a hyper-text transfer protocol request for information accessible to said computer-controlled apparatus.

14. The computer-controlled apparatus of Claim 13, wherein identifying one or more configuration settings based on said request comprises identifying a hyper-text transfer protocol host parameter contained in said hyper-text transfer protocol request.

15. The computer-controlled apparatus of Claim 14, wherein identifying one or more configuration settings based on said request comprises identifying one or more configuration settings stored in a registry stored in said storage device.

16. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a data structure, comprising:

- (a) a first data field comprising a configuration rule; and
- (b) a second data field comprising one or more configuration settings associated with said configuration rule used to configure a server computer if said configuration rule is satisfied.

17. The computer-readable medium of Claim 16, wherein said configuration settings comprise at least one setting name and a setting value associated with said setting name.

- 18. The computer-readable medium of Claim 17, further comprising:
 - (c) a third data field comprising at least one required configuration setting.